

## REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bedford *et al.* taken with Garnett *et al.* and Baisted. This ground of rejection of the claims is respectfully traversed in view of the foregoing claim amendments and these remarks. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the claimed method is directed to an improvement in the degradation by the enzymes of neutral detergent fiber in an animal feed. Claims 2-7 are dependent on claim 1. This method is neither anticipated nor made obvious by the cited references, either singly or in combination. Bedford *et al.* teaches the use of a multi-enzyme product in cereal-based poultry and swine feeds to improve the feed conversion ratio. Garnett *et al.* teaches the use of lysolecithin to increase the uptake of nutrients from an animal feed and describes lysolecithin as a growth promoter. Both of these references, accordingly, are directed to the effect of a feed additive as an animal growth promoter and direct stimulator of animal performance. Neither reference teaches anything whatsoever about the surprising result of the present invention in improving the degradation of neutral detergent fiber as recited in the amended claims of the present invention; indeed, there is absolutely no mention whatsoever in either reference to neutral detergent fiber.

Lysophospholipids are present in all types of biological tissues. The Baisted article discloses the mobilization of starch in cereal grains, a phenomenon that is mainly followed by a decrease in starch-bound lysophospholipid content of the endosperm tissue of the cereal grains. The article teaches nothing whatsoever about increasing the effectiveness of an enzyme on degradation of neutral detergent fiber in an animal feed.

Accordingly, none of the cited references contains any disclosure whatsoever with respect to neutral detergent fiber, much less improving the activity of enzymes in degrading neutral detergent fiber present in animal feeds.

The application has been amended to correct minor informalities, to further distinguish the application over the prior art, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention so as to place the application, as a whole, into a prima facie condition for allowance. Great care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new subject matter into the application as a result of the foregoing modifications.

Accordingly, the purpose of the claimed invention is not taught nor suggested by the cited references, nor is there any suggestion or teaching which would lead one skilled in the relevant art to combine the references in a manner which would meet the purpose of the claimed invention. Because the cited references, whether considered alone, or in combination with one another, do not teach nor suggest the purpose of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the prior art, including the art cited merely of record.

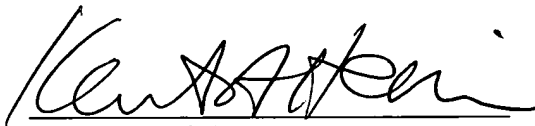
Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that its claims 1-7, as amended, are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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